(d) whether it will be adjusted under the barter trade in rupee payment or foreign exchange will be given as payment?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Recently India has not signed any agreement with Russia for manufacture of high-tech defence equipment.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Construction of ordnance factory at Rajgir, Bihar

†775. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of the ordnance factory being constructed at Rajgir in Bihar; and

(b) by when the production is likely to begin there alongwith complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES).(a) Land acquisition work has been almost completed by taking over possession of nearly 2700 acres of land out of a total identified area of 2966 acres. The infrastructure works have begun and an expenditure of nearly Rs. 80 crores has been incurred.

(b) Production is scheduled to begin by November, 2005. The factory, when fully commissioned, would produce 2 lakh modules of Bi-Modular Charges per annum. This propellant is suitable for high calibre ammunitions. The technology is being acquired from a South African firm.

Indigenous production of Bofors guns

776. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India plans to produce Bofors guns indigenously;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when production will start?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.